

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A treating agent for a metal hydride-containing exhaust gas, wherein said treating agent comprises:

a non-oxide metal based composition in which at least one metal selected from the group consisting of ~~group-VIII noble metals of the periodic table~~ palladium, platinum, rhodium, and silver is supported on ~~a metal hydroxide,~~ a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate, or a mixture thereof, wherein the weight of the at least one ~~of a group-VIII noble metal of the periodic table and silver~~ to the total weight of the treating agent is in a range of 0.002 % by weight to 3.0 % by weight.

2. (currently amended) The treating agent for the exhaust gas as claimed in claim 1, wherein metal components of ~~the metal hydroxide,~~ the metal carbonate, the basic metal carbonate, or the mixture thereof comprise at least one of copper, iron, cobalt, nickel, manganese, zinc, and chromium.

3. (currently amended) The treating agent for the exhaust gas as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the group-VIII noble~~

~~metals of the periodic table comprise at least one of~~
~~palladium, platinum, rhodium, and said treating agent further~~
comprises ruthenium.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A method of treating an exhaust gas, comprising:

removing metal hydride gas from a metal hydride-containing exhaust gas by exposing the metal hydride-containing exhaust gas to [[the]] a treating agent as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the treating agent comprises a non-oxide metal based composition in which at least one metal selected from the group consisting of group-VIII noble metals of the periodic table and silver is supported on a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate, or a mixture thereof, wherein the weight of the at least one of a group-VIII noble metal of the periodic table and silver to the total weight of the treating agent is in a range of 0.002 % by weight to 3.0 % by weight.

6. (currently amended) A treating agent for a metal hydride-containing exhaust gas, comprising:

a metal compound selected from the group consisting of a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate, and mixtures thereof; and

a group-VIII noble metal of the periodic table selected from the group consisting of palladium, platinum, rhodium and combinations thereof, supported on the metal compound to form a non-oxide metal based composition, wherein,

the group-VIII noble metal is present in an amount sufficient to increase the metal hydride treating rate of the metal compound.

7. (previously presented) The treating agent for exhaust gas as claimed in claim 6, wherein the amount of group-VIII noble metal sufficient to increase the metal hydride treating rate of the metal compound is 0.002 % by weight to 3.0 % by weight of the treating agent.

8. (currently amended) The treating agent for the exhaust gas as claimed in claim 6, ~~wherein the group-VIII noble metal of the periodic table is selected from the group consisting of palladium, platinum, rhodium,~~ further comprising ruthenium, ~~and combinations thereof.~~

9. (previously presented) A method of treating an exhaust gas, comprising:

removing a metal hydride gas from a metal hydride-containing exhaust gas by exposing the exhaust gas to a treating agent, wherein,

said treating agent comprises a non-oxide metal based composition in which at least one metal selected from the group consisting of group-VIII noble metals of the periodic table and silver is supported on a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate, or a mixture thereof.

10. (previously presented) The method of treating an exhaust gas as claimed in claim 9, wherein the weight of the at least one metal selected from the group consisting of a group-VIII noble metal of the periodic table and silver to the total weight of the treating agent is in a range of 0.002 % by weight to 3.0 % by weight.